



# Waves from the Office

## Water Rates to Increase in 2016

After a lengthy rate study conducted by Pioneer Consulting Group, the Brewster Board of Water Commissioners voted on June 16, 2015 to increase rates effective January 1, 2016. This will be the first rate increase since 2011 and was not a decision taken lightly. Several months of discussion and numerous meetings, led to the conclusion that current water rates will not support ongoing and future infrastructure replacement projects, land purchases and various capital improvement projects. As the water system ages, infrastructure, including water mains and service stubs, along with equipment such as tools, trucks and technology equipment require replacement. Some projects underway and scheduled in the future that will increase debt include the renewal of iron service stubs along Route 6A and Underpass Road, the grading and paving of the Well #3 access road, cleaning and painting the water

storage tanks and continued water meter upgrades. 2016 - 17 will see the start of payments toward money borrowed for the construction of Well #6 as well as a significant land purchase within the well head protection Zone 2 area.

The February 2016 water bills will see the following increases:

### Water usage Step 1:

Current \$2.12 per thousand gallons will increase to \$2.27 per thousand gallons for the first 5,000 gallons per billing period.

### Water usage Step 2:

Current \$4.46 per thousand gallons will increase to \$4.86 per thousand gallons for all usage over 5,000 gallons per billing period.

### Fire Line Fee:

2" Line from \$40.00 to \$80.00 per bill.

4" - 8" Line from \$80.00 to \$160.00 per bill.

### System Maintenance Fee:

5/8" or 3/4" meter from \$54.00 to \$60.00 per bill.

1" meter from \$104.00 to \$115.00 per bill

1 1/2" meter from \$129.00 to \$145.00 per bill

2" meter from \$154.00 to \$175.00 per bill

3" meter from \$204 to \$225.00 per bill

The Brewster Water Commissioners are in full support of the continuing efforts of the town to purchase vacant land within critical drinking water protective areas. It is in the spirit of this progressive planning that a portion of revenue collected from water rates will be set aside for future land purchases.

The department appreciates the good relations it has maintained with the residents of Brewster since its inception in 1972. We look forward to providing fire protection and clean, safe drinking water for many generations to come.

August 2015

### Brewster Water Office is Green:

- We use tree free sugarcane paper or 100% recycled for almost all of our paper work and paper products.
- The majority of our cleaning supplies are made from natural ingredients and we purchase office supplies made from recycled material whenever available and cost effective.
- We encourage staff and visitors to use reusable water bottles—filled with Brewster water, of course!
- Our staff recycles as much as possible. When we can't, we Pay As You Throw.



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**A 1/16" diameter leak at Brewster's average pressure will result in 148,000 gallons lost in 6 months time.**

**A dripping faucet can waste 3 gallons or more per day. Get a grip, stop a drip!**

If mailing in your payment, please remember: **Do not include paper clips or staples**—we use an electronic envelope opener and these items get caught and break off. Besides damaging the machine, shards can fly out and become a hazard.



## Frequently asked questions

### Why is my February bill higher than the August bill—I'm not even there in the winter?

The February bill is based on water used from June through December. Because this reading period includes the summer months, water bills can be significantly higher than the bill received in August.

### Can I pay my bill online?

Many people choose to pay their water bill with their personal bank's online bill pay service. If you do so, please remember to put your account number on the bill pay information as well as the Brewster property address. If you own more than one Brewster property, please pay each one separately with the accurate account information.

Last but not least, please update our mailing address—believe it or not, we still receive payments addressed to our old building on Main Street even though we moved to Commerce Park Road in 2009! At this time, our department does not accept credit card or debit card payments, nor are we set up for direct online payments. We expect to have this option in the near future.